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capable of being turned to account by scholars, that, despite all that adverse criticism might be able to urge, students of English would still regard them as a boon, were they provided with full and well arranged indexes. But the exclusion of nearly all Romance words from the index greatly diminishes the utility of the work, and to this drawback is added another arising from the confusion which reigns in the index as it now stands. If the Index Society should have occasion to cite new examples of comic entries, it would find rich stores at the end of Vol. II.

As an example, this series may serve :

"Collections of Plutarch; Collepixie; Collier; Collier, Jeremy; Collier (ship); Collier's Dramas; Colli-gener; Collop; Cologne."

Or the following :—

"Swift as thought; Swift, Dean; Swift (*passer*); Swiftsure, the; Swig; Swill."

Surely comment is unnecessary on such lists as these.

To sum up in a word: Mr. Oliphant would have succeeded better, had he been less ambitious. His book is neither literature nor philology; it is too burdened with the raw material of learning to be the former, and too unscientific and inaccurate to be the latter. Notwithstanding, it is a storehouse of facts; and he who has the patience to explore it, will be well rewarded for his labor.

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Glossar zu den Liedern der Edda (Sæmundar Edda) von HUGO GERING. Paderborn, 1887, pp. VIII + 200. [Bibliothek der ältesten deutschen Litteratur-Denkmäler. VIII. Band].

The lack of a special reference dictionary to the poems of the Edda has long been seriously felt by every student of Old Norse poetry. While not intended definitively to fill the existing gap, the present book nevertheless contributes appreciably toward it and is a very welcome addition to existing glosses.

The Edda text upon which Gering has based his glossary is the excellent *Lieder der älteren Edda* by Hildebrand, whose readings and orthography are followed except in the in-

stances noted below; variants are, however, not taken into consideration. Words other than those that constantly recur are cited under their inflected forms and referred in each instance to their proper strophe and line. All other words are only cited in their typical use; an omission that naturally much impairs the usefulness of the dictionary. Compounds are glossed under their first member only.

The only new readings unconditionally accepted occur in the verses below which are amended to read as follows :

Vsp. 28, 5 *broðinn var borðveggr* (Müllenhoff).

32, 2 *blauðgum tívur* (Müllenhoff).

57, 3 *gusar* (Grundtvig).

(Grundtvig: *meðan eitri gusar*)

4 *spýr glóðum* "

(Grundtvig: *ok um spýr glóðum;*)

7 *vargs at dauða* (Bugge).

Bdr. 6, 7 *flet fagrlega* (Sijmons).

Hým. 9, 5 *er minn friðill* (Bugge).

25, 3 *svát at ár Hýmí* "

Ls. 9, 5 *lèzkðu eigi mundu,*

Hrbl. 13, 6 *ef ek komonk yfir sundit.* (Sijmons).

Skm. 33, 5 *es þú fengit hefir* (Sijmons).

34, 5 *hve ek fyrbjóð,* "

6 *hve ek fyrbanna* "

Háv. 39, 2 *eða svá matargóðan,* "

3 *at værit þiggja þegit,* "

57, 4 *maðr manni* (Müllenhoff).

73, 1 *Tveir 'ru einskerjar;* "

Hyndl. 8, 6 *frá goðum komna,* (Sijmons).

HH. I. 42, 2 *láttund stoðum hreina,* (Bugge).

Grþ. 35, 7 *heitr þú fljóttla fer* (Sijmons).

Guðr. I. 16, 3 *svá at tár flutu* "

Sig. 22, 7 *ok eptirvarp* "

61, 6 *góðra ráða,*

Helr. 2, 3 *hvarffúst höfuð,* "

Guðr. II. 24, 4 *ok akarn brunnin,*

" III. 4, 3 *jöfur óneisan,* (Bugge).

Am. 1, 4 *sú vas nýt fæstum;* (Vigfusson)

90, 5 *varða ván lygi,*

Of the multitude of new readings by Vigfusson, adopted in the *Corpus Poeticum Boreale*, but one is found in the above list, viz. *Am.* 1, 4. Only the words supplied by Grundtvig to fill the lacunæ in *Vsp.* 57, 3 and 4 are glossed under their corrected forms; the other changes are merely noted under the forms used by Hildebrand.

The following purely orthographic changes are incorporated in the glossary under the corrected form: The one great alteration that has been made in the orthography is the graphic differentiation of consonantal *i* (*j*) and vocalic *i*—a change that commends itself. Further changes are: *bjǫð*, *f.* (*bjǫðum Vsp.* 7, 2) instead of *bjǫðr*, *m.*; *kǫr*, *f.* (*Guðr.* II. 44, 3) instead of *kjǫr*; *rǫk*, *n. pl.* (a frequent word) instead of *røk*; *ægir*, *m.* (*ægi, Vsp.* 61, 3; *Rp.* 44, 8; and frequently as name of the god of the sea) instead of *ægir*. Quantity is changed in: *fírar*, *m. pl.* (a frequent word) not *fírar*; *ið*, *f.* (*iðir Hmðm.* 1, 2) not *ið*; *tíginn*, *adj.* (*tíginna, Am.* 91, 4) not *tígin*; *tópt*, *f.* (*tóptir Grm.* 11, 6) not *tópt*.

The following changes are accepted, but are, nevertheless, not glossed as corrected: *en*, *conj.* should throughout be written *enn*; *græta* (*grætir Ls.* 37, 4; *grætta Háv.* 109, 6; *HH.* II. 28, 4) should be *græta*; *græti*, *n. pl.* (*Sig.* 64, 8; *Hmðm.* 1, 3; *Guðr.* II. 10, 6) should be *græti*; *grætir*, *m.* (*græti Hým.* 14, 3) should be *grætir*; *kvækva*, (*Hmðm.* 1, 8; *kvækisk Háv.* 57, 3) should be *kveykva*; *væla* (*vælti, Grm.* 6, 5) should be *vêla*.

The glossary, as the preface states, is to be considered but the precursor of a complete dictionary to the lays of the Edda. This larger work is intended to form the third volume of a new annotated edition of the Edda to be prepared by B. Sijmons, who will adopt a normalized orthography to accord with the surmised age of the lays. The future glossary will not only follow the new orthography, but will cite every word, including variants, by strophe and line; it will also properly gloss the second member of compounds, and in the case of rarely occurring words will furnish citations from the poetry outside the Edda. In the mean time the present book is unmistakably a valuable contribution to Old Norse poetical *subsidiæ*. The readings of our only available poetical dictionary, the *Lexicon Poeticum* of Egilsson, have been, in many cases, superseded; and, although at first altogether admirable, it must now be used with extreme caution. With a dictionary carefully made on the plan suggested in the preface the study of Old Norse poetry will take a long stride forward. That much still remains

to be done in clearing up the difficulties of the Edda text as it has come down to us, is shown by the numerous question marks after readings and definitions in the present book. A careful examination of the skaldic poetry in the light of the criticism of the last few years ought to do much toward clearing away some of them. As Gering's present work is by himself regarded as in a sense only tentative, many criticisms that would be in order on it ought justly to be withheld for the other, which, no doubt, will itself anticipate them.

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Representative English Prose and *English Prose Writers* by THEODORE W. HUNT, Ph. D., Professor of Rhetoric and English Language in the College of New Jersey. Author of 'The Principles of Written Discourse,' etc. A. C. Armstrong and Son, New York. 527 pp. 12mo, \$1.50.

To write a scholarly and comprehensive treatise on English Prose is no easy task. It requires a general knowledge of the whole scope of English Literature. The writer should be as familiar with the style of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle as he is with that of 'Heroes and Hero Worship.' He must believe in the study of literature itself as a broad historic continuity. No mere dabbler in pet epochs, no short-sighted enthusiast who mistakes the petty confines of a single century for the broad domain of literature in the land where "Freedom slowly broadens down from precedent to precedent," will be equal to giving to English Prose anything like the adequate treatment that Becker gave to German Style. A mere belief in the historic development of literature will not be enough: he must have that philosophic view which comes from a deep insight into the principles which underlie literary growth. No student can fully comprehend an English author unless he knows both the relation which that author sustains to his own period, and also the broader relation which that period bears to those which may precede or follow it. He who aspires to write upon English Prose must be familiar with what literary critics have written, from the simple statements of a Ben